IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Apparatus for acquiring packetized program data from at least a first source, comprising:

a processor for acquiring program guide information and for acquiring ancillary information conveyed in hierarchically ordered data tables in said packetized program data, said ancillary information including,

(a) a first version identifier conveyed in a primary data table and updated in response to a version change in at least one of a plurality of secondary tables hierarchically linked to said primary data table, and

(b) a second version identifier conveyed in a secondary data table and updated in response to at least one of,

a version change in said secondary table, and

a version change in a tertiary table hierarchically linked to said secondary table;

a processor for determining change in said secondary data table content by examining said second version identifier for a change following determination of a change in said first version identifier; and

an acquisition processor for acquiring said secondary data table in response to said determination of change.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said primary data table comprises a root database table for indicating version change in hierarchically ordered program guide data tables.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said secondary data table is used to indicate change in multimedia objects comprising objects associated with at least one of (a) broadcast channels, (b) broadcast programs, and (c) User interface controls.

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No. 09/622,331
Date of Office Action: July 1, 2005
Date of Response: September 9, 2005

PATENT
RCA 89,400

4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said primary data table is used to indicate change in at least one of (a) electronic program guide information tables and (b) MPEG compatible program specific information.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said ancillary information is a two level hierarchical arrangement containing only a primary table and secondary tables.

6. (Original) Apparatus for adaptively decoding re-partitionable packetized program guide data, comprising:

a processor for acquiring program guide data comprising hierarchically ordered data table partitions and including partitioning information, said partitioning information including,

partition identifiers assigned to individual partitions of said program guide data, wherein said program guide data partitions are dynamically re-partitionable by re-assignment of said partition identifiers in said partitioning information; and

a processor for identifying said re-assigned partition identifiers and for acquiring additional program guide data in response to said identified re-assigned partition identifiers.

7. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

said partition identifiers identify program guide data partitions based on at least one of, (a) an area, (b) a broadcast time, (c) a complexity level, and (d) a partition type.

8. (Original) A method for forming packetized program data to be suitable for processing in a decoder, comprising the steps of:

forming program guide information and ancillary information into hierarchically ordered data tables and including in said ancillary information,

(a) a first version identifier conveyed in a primary data table and updated in response to a version change in at least one of a plurality of secondary tables hierarchically linked to said primary data table, and

(b) a second version identifier conveyed in a secondary data table and updated in response to at least one of,

a version change in said secondary table, and

a version change in a tertiary table hierarchically linked to said secondary table; and

incorporating said ancillary information and said program guide information into packetized data for output to a transmission channel.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, including the step of

forming said primary data table to comprise a root database table for indicating version change in hierarchically ordered program guide data tables.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

forming said secondary data table to indicate change in multimedia objects comprising objects associated with at least one of (a) broadcast channels, (b) broadcast programs, and (c) User interface controls.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

forming said primary data table to indicate change in at least one of (a) electronic program guide information tables and (b) MPEG compatible program specific information.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

said ancillary information is a two level hierarchical arrangement containing only a primary table and secondary tables.

13. (Original) A method for forming packetized program data to be suitable for processing in a decoder, comprising the steps of:

partitioning program guide information and ancillary information into hierarchically ordered data table partitions and including a database in said ancillary information, said database including,

(a) updatable version numbers for indicating content change of a partition, and

(b) cell numbers assigned to individual partitions of said program guide information, wherein said program guide information cell partitions are dynamically re-partitionable by re-assignment of said cell number in said database; and

incorporating said ancillary information and said program guide information into packetized data for output to a transmission channel.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein

said ancillary information contains a multimedia object comprising objects associated with at least one of (a) broadcast channels, (b) broadcast programs, and (c) User interface controls.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein

an object comprises at least one of (a) a video segment, (b) an audio segment, (c) text, (d) an icon representing a user selectable item for display, (e) an HTML or SGML document (f) a menu of selectable items, (g) an image window for presentation within an encompassing image, and (h) an image window for initiating a multimedia function.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein

a cell number incorporates at least one of, (a) an area identifier, (b) a broadcast time identifier, and (c) a complexity level identifier.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).